

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1) A portable computer, comprising:
a base portion with a keyboard;
an electronic display connected to the base portion; and
a camera stored in the base portion, wherein the camera automatically powers on when ejected from the base portion.
- 2) The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the camera automatically powers off when inserted into the base portion.
- 3) The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising an elongated mounting member connected to the camera.
- 4) The portable computer of claim 3 wherein the mounting member has a cylindrical shape and provides electrical communication between the camera and the base portion.
- 5) The portable computer of claim 1 further comprising a mounting member that mechanically and electrically couples the camera to the base portion.
- 6) The portable computer of claim 5, wherein one end of the camera is connected to the mounting member, the camera being movable about two different axes while connected to the mounting member.
- 7) The portable computer of claim 1 wherein the base portion comprises a cavity, and the camera is stored inside the cavity.
- 8) The portable computer of claim 7 wherein the cavity is formed in a side of the base portion.

9) The portable computer of claim 1 wherein:

the camera is movable between a storage position disposed inside the base portion and an ejected position disposed outside of the base portion, the camera being mechanically connected to the portable computer while in the ejected position; and

the camera is movable about two different axes while in the ejected position.

10) A method, comprising:

automatically powering a camera on while ejecting the camera from a computer;

and

automatically powering the camera off while inserting the camera into the computer.

11) The method of claim 9 further comprising activating a switch located inside the computer while ejecting the camera from the computer to perform said automatically powering the camera on.

12) The method of claim 11 further comprising activating the switch located inside the computer while inserting the camera into the computer to perform said automatically powering the camera off.

13) The method of claim 9 further comprising inserting said camera into a cavity in the computer so an outer surface of the camera forms an exterior surface of the computer.

14) The method of claim 9 further comprising removing the camera from mechanical attachment to the computer, and transmitting a wireless signal from the camera to the computer.

15) A video conference system, comprising:

a computer; and

a camera movable between a first position and a second position, wherein the camera is disposed in the computer in the first position and is mechanically detached

from the computer in the second position, the camera being electrically coupled to the computer in the second position.

16) The video conference system of claim 15 wherein the camera has a housing that is completely disposed inside a cavity in the computer in the first position such that the housing forms an exterior surface of the computer.

17) The video conference system of claim 15 wherein the camera transmits wireless signals to the computer while in the second position.

18) The video conference system of claim 15 wherein the computer further comprises a mounting member, wherein the mounting member is disposed inside the computer in the first position and extends outwardly from the computer in the second position.

19) The video conference system of claim 18 wherein the camera is mechanically connected to the mounting member while in the first position.

20) The video conference system of claim 15 wherein the camera is in a power-off state while in the first position and automatically transitions to a power-on state when the camera physically moves from the first position to the second position.